COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR

Claim 1 (currently amended):   A Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop interconnect system comprising:

a first port,

a second port,

said first and second ports including port logic to monitor ~~certain~~Open (OPN) arbitrated loop primitives,

a crossbar switch coupled to said first and second ports,

a route determination apparatus including a routing table ~~consisting~~comprised of Arbitrated Loop Physical Addresses (ALPAs) ~~addresses~~and their associated ports, the route determination apparatus separate from the ports and directly coupled to each port and the crossbar switch through separate signaling paths, the route determination apparatus for programming the crossbar switch to establish direct paths between the ports in the crossbar switch,

~~whereby~~wherein the crossbar switch creates the direct paths between the ports based on the OPN arbitrated loop primitives, and

wherein priority for each port is independent of the ALPAs.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended):   A system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices comprising:

a first Arbitrated Loop containing one or more Fibre Channel arbitrated loop devices,

a second Arbitrated Loop ~~Device~~,

a Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop interconnect system, the interconnect system including:

a first port containing port logic coupled to the first Arbitrated Loop,

a second port containing port logic coupled to the second Arbitrated Loop,

route determination apparatus <u>separate from the ports and directly coupled to each port through separate signaling paths</u> for selecting a <u>direct</u> route between ports, ~~the said route determination apparatus selecting routes~~ based on received Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop primitives from the ports and including a routing table containing <u>Arbitrated Loop Physical Addresses (ALPA<u>s</u>)</u> ~~addresses~~ and their associated ports,<u>, and</u>

~~connectivity apparatus~~<u>a crossbar switch directly</u> coupled to the first and second ports and to the route determination apparatus <u>through separate signaling paths</u> for switching frames between ports under control of the route determination apparatus,

~~the said connectivity apparatus is a crossbar switch,~~

~~whereby~~<u>wherein</u> Fibre Channel frames are transferred between a device on the first Arbitrated Loop and the second Arbitrated Loop Device<u>, and</u>

<u>wherein priority for each port is independent of the ALPAs</u>.

Claim 4 (currently amended):   The interconnect system of claim 3 ~~whereby~~<u>wherein</u> the Arbitrated Loop primitives that cause the crossbar switch to create paths between ports includes one or more of the following: <u>Arbitrate (ARB)</u>, <u>Open (OPN)</u> and <u>Close (CLS)</u>.

Claim 5 (currently amended):   The interconnect system of claim 3 including a <u>Receiver Ready (R_RDY)</u> counter to count R_RDY's sent by the originating Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop device before the <u>Open (OPN)</u> response is received by the originating Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop Device.

Claim 6 (currently amended):   The interconnect system of claim 3 ~~whereby~~wherein the second Arbitrated Loop device is on the first port.

Claim 7 (currently amended):   The interconnect system of claim 3 ~~whereby~~wherein the second Arbitrated Loop device is on the second port.